

dead host pupae by making a round exit-hole 3 mm in diameter. The pressure of the chalcid parasites on the Plain Puffin caterpillar population seems to be high. Out of about 40 pupae investigated in the field, 8 were parasitized by the chalcid wasps, i.e. approximately 20%. Some caterpillars were found to be attacked and killed by unidentifiable microbes and still more by the wandering larvae of unidentified lacewing flies (order Neuroptera).

Out of 18 butterflies that emerged successfully almost half (8) were females and this proportion was also seen in the free-ranging imagines recorded.

The butterfly is consistently present, perhaps in growing numbers, and is breeding here since the last four years. Given the abundant foodplant (*Putranjiva* has been planted as a roadside avenue plant at many places) and temperate climate, it may not be very hard for the Plain Puffin to establish itself in the city.

November 20, 1997 KRUSHNAMEGH KUNTE
*Wildlife Institute of India,
 M.Sc Students Hostel,
 Post Box No. 18, Chandrabani,
 Dehra Dun 248 001.*

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32. COMMON SILVERLINE CATERPILLAR FEEDING ON *CADABA INDICA*

The Common Silverline (*Spindasis vulcanus* Fabricius: Lycaenidae: Lepidoptera) larvae have been recorded feeding on various species of plants belonging to families Rubiaceae, Rhamnaceae and Verbenaceae. Their choice of larval foodplant does not seem to depend much on the plant itself, but on the presence of attending ants, so the butterfly has managed to breed on species of diverse plant families.

Dr. Makarand Dabak found a caterpillar of a Lycaenid in a small cell made of a few *Cadaba* sp. (Capparidaceae) leaves, constantly attended by small black ants. I reared it at home and the caterpillar fed happily on the leaves of *Cadaba*. After it was full grown it went into pupation and formed a jet black pupa. The Common Silverline emerged out of the pupa.

No Lycaenid has been recorded as feeding on plants of Capparidaceae, which are common foodplants of many of the Pierids. The present record adds the family Capparidaceae to the host plants of the Lycaenidae. This record also supports the postulated tight relationship between Silverline caterpillars and ants which attend them, and also demonstrates that chemical composition of the foodplant seems to have little relevance in this relation.

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*Life Research Foundation
 Pranav, 1000/6-C, Navi Peth, Pune 411 030.
 Present Address:
 Wildlife Institute of India,
 MSc Students Hostel,
 Post Box #18, Chandrabani,
 Dehra Dun-248 001.*